

1 Samuel 25:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them.

Analysis

But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them.

A servant's warning to Abigail initiates her intervention. The Hebrew 'vayit bahem' (railed on them/flew at them) describes Nabal's aggressive verbal attack. The servant contradicts Nabal's feigned ignorance—he knows David 'sent messengers out of the wilderness' for legitimate purpose. The phrase 'to salute' (levarekh—literally 'to bless') emphasizes the peaceful intent of David's approach. This servant's initiative reveals household awareness that Nabal's response created danger. Servants going around their master to his wife indicates desperate circumstances. The information network that failed in Saul's household (servants afraid to speak) functioned in Nabal's—at least regarding his wife.

Historical Context

Household servants often understood situations their masters ignored. Going to the wife when the husband created problems was a recognized avenue for problem-solving in ancient households. The servant's willingness to report Nabal's foolishness to Abigail suggests she was known for wisdom.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do wise servants navigate around foolish masters?
2. What does the servant's trust in Abigail reveal about her reputation?

Interlinear Text

אֲבִיל מִבְנָעָר יִם אֲשָׁת וְלֹא בַּגְּיָה יְלָא
Abigail wife Nabal's told of the young men But one
H26 H802 H5037 H5046 H5288 H259

מִלְאָכִים לְאָמֵר מִבְנָעָר יִם
of the young men saying behold David messengers
H5288 H559 H2009 H7971 H1732 H4397

בְּקָרְבָּן יְעַט אֲדֹנֵינוּ אֶת לְבָרָה מִבְּמִדְבָּר
out of the wilderness to salute our master and he railed
H4057 H1288 H853 H113 H5860 H0

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